

From: Bernard R Buchta
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 5:15pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

January 28, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

As a six-year teacher of PCs and the Windows operating system, I would like to voice my strong support for settling the pending Microsoft case.

My experience as a PC instructor and my 26-year's as a military logistics officer has taught me the great value of standardization. Standardization buys everyone a lot. And, after standardization is achieved, "the payback is forever."

Witness: When we go to war, we want our bullets to fit into our allies' guns and rifles, and want theirs to fit into ours. We want to be able to share, substitute and interchange their artillery rounds, fuel, and rations, etc., with ours. It's called being "Interoperable." It's a great force-multiplier and keeps costs down.

Standardization, by definition, creates efficiency. It also makes for convenience and ease of use. Now, today, we need standardization and efficiency more than ever. Therefore, the proposed solution seems like a fair compromise that will provide the most effective long-term results for consumers.

As seen with the International Standards Organization, the uniformity of Windows(R) and its supporting products is an asset to all computer users. This includes business and industry, schools, home users, . . . just everyone!

Technology is complicated enough for the average person, so the advantages Microsoft provides with the scope of their software presence is immeasurable in the form of America's almost seamless transition into the information age with young and old alike.

Though I did not respect the government's case, the restrictions imposed with this deal are far more favorable than the possibility of a corporate break up and chaos within the computer world.

Based on the new, more even-handed approach of Microsoft toward competitors, and those who do business with competitors, plus the implementation of an objective technical committee of experts to ensure compliance, it seem to me it would be in the best interest of all parties involved to proceed with this agreement. This will save the consumer a great deal of heartache. It will also permit continued interoperability in future systems and software programs.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

